

National Cancer Advisory Board

Subcommittee for Review of Contracts & Budget of the OD

Concept Review, 19 May 1982

The meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board Subcommittee for Review of Contracts and Budget of the Office of the Director was called to order at 1:00 p.m., 19 May 1982, by Dr. Robert C. Hickey, Chairman. Also attending were subcommittee members Drs. Joseph Gale Katterhagen, Henry C. Pitot, Janet D. Rowley, and Mrs. Rose Kushner. NCI Executive Officer, Mr. Philip D. Amoruso was present as executive secretary.

Mr. Amoruso presented a review of the briefing book which had been sent in advance to each subcommittee member. He outlined the organization of the NCI and the Office of the Director, the contract review process including concept review, recent budget and contracts decisions, and the Frederick Cancer Research Facility. There was particular interest shown in the FCRF material, and subcommittee members requested that further information be made available at the October 1982 NCAB meeting.

The first contract presented for concept approval was "Management Information System Support Services (Programming)." The existing contract, number N01-CO-95460, with System Sciences, Inc., has an expiration date of 23 September 1982 with a no-cost extension through 15 March 1983. Request was made for approval of a recompetition of the resource contract. Ms. Betty Ann Sullivan, OPPA, made the presentation. The contract would provide support services to the Management Information System Project Office in their efforts to develop new systems, maintain and improve existing systems, and conduct continuing evaluations of the appropriateness and efficacy of each. Dr. Pitot moved for approval for a 3-year contract at a total of \$542,000, and Dr. Rowley seconded; the vote was unanimous in favor.

Next, the request for approval to recompete the resource contract, "Cancer Information Clearinghouse and Allied Services," was presented. The existing contract, number N01-CO-05473, expires May 1983. After a discussion of the uses and resources of the Clearinghouse, the Project Officer, Mr. E. Joseph Bangiolo, OCC, answered questions on the cost and evaluations of the service. Dr. Katterhagen moved approval of the 3-year proposal for \$777,000, and Dr. Pitot seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The third contract offered for concept approval was "National Survey of Public Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavior Related to Cancer." This would be a new research contract, with the presenter, Mr. Thomas Kean, OCC, serving as Project Officer. Mr. Kean explained that this project, to determine current levels of public knowledge and attitudes about cancer, is a three-part project. The first phase (a literature review and series of focus-group interviews) had been completed. Phases II and III (instrument design and the actual field survey), now up for concept review, would be funded mostly from the DHHS 1% Evaluation Set-Aside. Only \$15,000 of the total \$277,000 would come from NCI-OD monies. Subcommittee members questioned the reliability of public attitudes as determined by such a survey, and asked for opinions on the survey's efficacy from behavioral scientists and other human resource experts. Mr. Kean

answered the first concern noting that although public opinion is highly volatile, there remains a need for a measure or standard by which to gauge such shifts. No written documentation was readily available which would address the latter concern.

Mrs. Kushner moved for approval of the concept with NCI financial participation set at \$15,000. There was no second. Dr. Katterhagen then moved to table the proposal pending submission to the subcommittee of behavioral scientists' evaluations of the project. Dr. Pitot seconded, and the motion carried with one opposing vote.

The fourth contract brought up for consideration was "Screening, Indexing, Abstracting, and Keying Information from Published Cancer Literature." This is a combination of two existing contracts, numbers N01-CO-05463 and N01-CO-05465 which expire 1 February 1983 and 11 August 1983 respectively. Following a talk by Dr. Gregory T. O'Connor, Director of the NCI Office of International Affairs, on the activities of the OIA and the International Cancer Research Data Bank, ICRDB Program Director Dr. John Schneider explained the Data Bank's Congressional mandate to collect, store, and disseminate cancer research information from around the world.

This contract would provide essential services for these activities, and would be a recompetition falling under the Small Business Set-Aside provisions. Subcommittee members questioned billing and fee procedures for the publications and documents generated from the data bases provided by this contract. Drs. O'Connor and Schneider explained that, although such materials are currently distributed quid pro quo to principle investigators, a fee or charge is under consideration. Stipulating that these considerations be pursued actively, Dr. Pitot moved for approval, Mrs. Kushner seconded, and the motion carried at a total funding level of \$4,780,000 for 4 years.

"Liaison and Implementation Projects in Support of the NCI International Cancer Research Data Bank (ICRDB) Program" was presented for review next. Project Officer Barry Goldfarb, OIA, explained the request was for a resource contract -- Justification for a Non-Competitive Procurement, on existing contract number C07-5377 which expires 31 May 1983. The current and proposed contractor is the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer (UICC). Mr. Goldfarb described the Congressionally-mandated liaison and information-sharing activities with other cancer centers, institutes and programs outside the United States, and answered questions on other organizations participating in and supporting such activities. Dr. Pitot moved and Dr. Katterhagen seconded approval of the concept for an additional 3 years at a total cost of \$675,000; the motion carried unanimously.

The last OIA contract reviewed was "Support of Activities of the USA National Committee for the International Union Against Cancer (UICC)." Dr. Hickey absented himself for this presentation. This resource contract was presented with a Justification for Non-Competitive Procurement; the current contract, due to expire 31 March 1983, is with the National Academy of Sciences, number C07-5384. Mr. Goldfarb talked briefly about the UICC's activities, for which the USA National Committee and this contract provide support. Dr. Pitot moved to approve the concept at the reduced level of \$140,000 (a \$5,000 reduction for each of the 4 years of the contract.) Dr. Katterhagen seconded and the motion passed with no opposition.

The seventh and final contract presented to the subcommittee was, "Programming and Data Entry Services in Support of the National Cancer Institute/Contracts Management System (NCI/CMS)." The existing contract, number N01-CO-05493, is with Sigma Data Services Corp., and will expire 15 February 1983. The request was for recompetition of the resource contract. Project Officer Robert Spallone, Grants Financial and Data Analysis Branch, described the daily administrative uses that the CMS serves, including routine and special request reports, detailed analyses and data retrieval. The contract is classified under Small Business Set-Aside. Dr. Pitot moved for approval of the 3-year contract at \$465,000. Dr. Katterhagen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The concept review completed, Mrs. Kushner brought up a point of information concerning OCC activities at various professional and scientific gatherings. However, as Mr. Van Nevel, Associate Director for Office of Cancer Communications, was no longer present, discussion was limited, and Dr. Pitot requested that information be sent to the subcommittee members on this topic.

There being no further business, Dr. Hickey adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.